

Award winners named at Texas EMS Conference 2007

The 2007 Texas EMS Awards, presented during the Texas EMS Conference in Houston, honored the best in EMS and trauma in 13 categories. Congratulations to the winners!

EMS Public Information/Injury Prevention Award - Shattered Lives of Montgomery County for excellence in teaching dangers of poor decision-making through a dramatic two-day presentation at high schools. Montgomery County Shattered Lives is a non-profit, community coalition that began in 1999. In 2007 they presented the two-day program at five area high schools, often partnering with surrounding communities to establish similar programs in other cities.



Linda Haden

EMS Citizen Award - Linda Haden, RN, for her response as a bystander to a collision on a rural highway, assisting with the extrication and medical treatment of a three-year-old girl whose father and six-year-old brother were both killed. Linda did not have a duty to act or provide

the amount of care that she did. Other rescue workers on the scene believe Linda's actions contributed greatly to the three-year-old being delivered to the EMS as a viable patient.



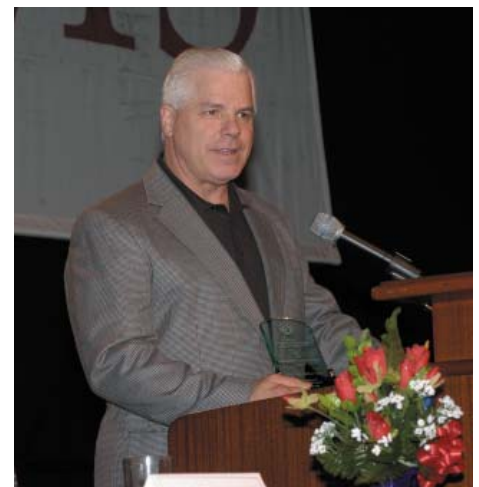
Kristine Kern

EMS Educator Award - Kristine Kern, LP, for her innovative teaching techniques and rapport she maintains with her students as assistant professor in the EMS program at College of the Mainland. Kern, a paramedic and educator for over 19 years, often spends her off-hours in the lab with students, in study groups, or riding as a paramedic and giving truly "hands-on" teaching to students. She recently took on the role of assistant chief in charge of training for Friendswood VFD – EMS, developing challenging continuing education classes for all skill levels. Kristine offers her teaching talents in many other arenas, such as the volunteer fire department, 12-lead training for nurses and doctors at local hospitals, business and industry groups and community first responders. Kern believes that education is key to a well-rounded medic.



Ed Racht, MD; David Lakey, MD; William Moore, MD, of ETMC; and Maxie Bishop

Designated Trauma Facility Award - East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, for its role as a Level I trauma center at a community-based, non-teaching hospital, a rarity in the U.S. The hospital serves a 100-mile radius in East Texas, and is the only Level I hospital between Dallas and Shreveport, Louisiana. The trauma service has been re-certified by the American College of Surgeons several times and continues to get excellent reviews. The physicians involved in the trauma surgery department have shown a dedication to trauma research and have presented their research at numerous trauma meetings.



William Moore, MD

EMS Medical Director Award - William Moore, MD, for his innovative work and his dedication to EMS and the Texas Trauma System. Moore has been with East Texas Medical Center (ETMC) -Tyler since 1989 as the medical director of EMS and as an emergency room staff physician. He is the chairman of the hospital preparedness committee for the Piney Woods RAC. He is a member of GETAC's Medical Director Committee and a tireless advocate for prehospital medicine and the trauma system. Moore also received the EMS Medical Director Award in 1993.



Kathy Perkins, second from left and Ronny Stewart, MD, third from right, with members of STRAC

Outstanding RAC Award - Southwest Texas RAC, for partnering with state agencies to coordinate a comprehensive trauma and disaster preparedness "systems-approach" to mobilizing medical resources as Hurricane Dean approached the Gulf of Mexico. It also coordinated regional medical responses to the April 2007 tornado in the Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras area in which ten people were killed and dozens injured, and it coordinated responses to wildfires in both Kerrville and Bexar counties. These activities were carried out through the STRAC's "EMS-Hospital Disaster Group," a concept that exponentially

expands the traditional role of RACs from not only architects of regional trauma systems, but also developers of regional disaster-emergency healthcare systems. The STRAC exemplifies the significant regional influence of EMS providers and hospitals working collaboratively with each other to get the right patient to the right hospital in the right amount of time. STRAC also won the award in 2000.



Kevin Deramus

EMS Administrator Award - Kevin Deramus, LP, for his role as director of Washington County EMS and as co-chair of the EMS Committee for the Brazos Valley Regional Advisory Council. In those roles, he has pushed for regional standardized protocols, participated in the stroke team and several injury prevention programs, and assisted with the implementation of rapid sequence intubation (RSI). His efforts have provided the community with Public Access Defibrillation programs and there are now 55 Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Washington County. He also began the public CPR program, resulting in hundreds of residents being trained in CPR. He sought advanced protocols for Washington

County, and provides education to his employees and to staff at local hospitals. He has implemented programs such as Injury Prevention/Fall Prevention for the elderly and a Special Operations Team that has nine members who train in hazmat, high angle rescue, water rescue, and child/adult immunization program.



Shannon Air Med 1

EMS Air Medical Service Award -- Shannon AirMed 1, for excellent service to the people of the Concho Valley in West Texas, covering an area spanning over 131,323 square miles and 108 counties. Given the geographical response area, emergent transfers frequently average more than two hours. The crew of AirMed 1 are trained to initiate advanced critical care treatment in the field, meaning that critically ill patients can be transported from the helicopter directly to the cath lab or surgery. AirMed 1 also enthusiastically participates in community functions, health fairs, youth activities, food bank collections, and career days in San Angelo and all over its service area. The service participated in over ten Shattered Dreams programs this year. AirMed 1 received a Local Projects Grant in 2006 which they used to buy equipment to provide free emergency related education in rural areas.



Friendswood VFD EMS

Volunteer Provider Award - Friendswood VFD EMS for its dedicated personnel, including firefighters, medics nurses, educators and flight medics, who donate their time and expertise to their community. FEMS works hard to add aggressive new protocols such as recently adding the Induced Cooling by EMS (ICE) protocol as a research project with Clear Lake Regional Hospital and neighboring EMS agencies. Over the last few years they have added protocols such as RSI and pain management to help FEMS medics better treat their patients. FEMS' focus on continuing education goes beyond the volunteer medics, reaching out to Friendswood High School and College of the Mainland to work with HOSA high school students who are interested in pursuing EMT as a career. Two students won first place in the EMT skills portion of the state HOSA competition then went on to win 2nd place in the national EMT skills HOSA competition last year. Friendswood EMS is active in SETTRAC and in its community with programs such as free immunization clinics/kid care, CPR for friends and family classes, and a bike medic group.



Washington County EMS

Private/Public Provider Award - Washington County EMS for its leadership role in advancing aggressive protocols, partnering with other public safety agencies, educating the public about EMS and other health issues, partnering with other public agencies, and having a management team highly attuned to the needs of medics on the street. Washington County EMS (WCEMS) has spent the last several years educating the public about EMS and it has paid off in tremendous community support from the public and from the county commissioners. The staff remains highly visible, whether through serving on a RAC or other public health committees. And in the midst of tremendous growth the agency has experienced, it took on new roles in public health, having medics administer vaccines and flu vaccinations in the absence of other resources, such as a public health nurse. In addition, the service pushes for aggressive protocols and for more disaster preparedness. By forging agreements with police, fire and other public safety entities, WCEMS demonstrates that its first priority is service to the people of the region, regardless of the agency

tapped to respond first. WCEMS organized a special operations division to provide paramedic support to the Brenham SWAT team and is working on an MOA with Brenham Fire Department to provide joint hazmat response. However, patients say it best: on a recent survey, 95 percent of respondents treated by paramedics said they were "extremely competent and professional."



Jack Howley

EMS Person Award - Jack Howley, EMT-P, for longtime service to EMS in Del Rio. Howley experienced for himself EMS as it evolved from a hobby to a life-long commitment of service, dedication and self-sacrifice. During his 25 years as director at Val Verde Regional Medical Center EMS, Jack built a solid team of dedicated paramedics, a fleet of first class ambulances and equipment, and, most importantly, built trust within the community. Howley retired in 2007, but his legacy will continue at Val Verde EMS for many years.

all award photos by B. Kinney



Dudley Wait

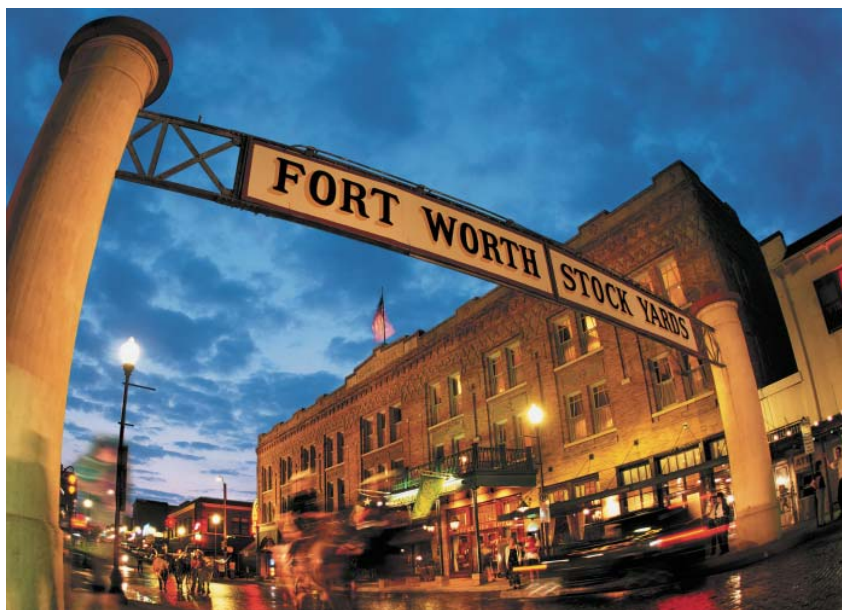
Journey of Excellence Award - Dudley Wait, LP, for his passionate involvement in committees and task forces for GETAC. For many years he has played a major role in facilitating consensus among people with widely divergent opinions, developing a concise summary of the real issues and a workable action plan. His efforts always remind us that we are in this business to take care of the sick and injured and that they rely on us to develop a system that accomplishes it in the best way it can. His kind approach, and friendly, inclusive style, paired with an “EMS” sense of humor make him an extraordinarily effective leader. The 2007 Journey of Excellence recognizes Dudley Wait as a true Texas EMS treasure. The award is given by the chair and vice-chair of GETAC to an individual who consistently demonstrates a keen ability to work through complex problems involving many different organizations and individuals, with a focus on providing a better environment for patient care. The award is unique because it emphasizes not only *what* an individual does, it recognizes *how* the individual accomplishes the goals.



Ashish Shah, MD, (left) and David Persse, MD, (right), thank representatives from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Safety Committee

EMS First Responder Award - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Safety Committee for providing exemplary service for all Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLS&R) Safety Committee events, both on-site and

off-site (parade, trail ride events and campout at Memorial Park, off-site judging of livestock, etc.), as well as for the cowboy and cowgirl rodeo contestants. During show hours, the committee is the first responder for the Houston Fire Department and is in radio contact with HFD dispatch center and EMS units. During 2007, the safety committee responded to 556 incidents and treated a total of 2,306 visitors. The safety committee has its own training division, and its 750 members are required to attend two training sessions each year. Training topics includes AED, CPR, back board, immobilization and correct stretcher techniques, along with record keeping procedures.



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